

In the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) In a mobile satellite system including a satellite communication switching office having a satellite antenna for providing communication of a satellite message with a mobile communication system via a satellite, a central controller communicating with the mobile communication system via the satellite communication switching office, a communication method comprising:

storing a plurality of message display forms in the mobile communication system, each message display form having a predetermined display format and a form identifier;

generating at the central controller a user message comprising message data;

outputting from the central controller a satellite message carrying the message data and the form identifier of a selected one of the message display forms to the satellite communication switching office;

transmitting the satellite message to the mobile communication system via the satellite; and

displaying the satellite message received by the mobile communication system using a selected one of the stored message display forms corresponding to the form identifier in the transmitted satellite message;

wherein the mobile communication system comprises a PCMCIA slot and application software including a configuration manager, the storing step comprising:

connecting a PCMCIA card to the PCMCIA slot; and

downloading the message display forms via the PCMCIA slot.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the storing step comprises:
generating a data message having the form identifier and the corresponding display format of at least one of the message display forms;

transmitting the data message as a second satellite message from the satellite communication switching office to the mobile communication system via the satellite; and

storing the received data message at the mobile communication system.

3-18. (Canceled)

19. (Original) In a mobile satellite system including a satellite communication switching office having a satellite antenna for providing communication of a satellite message with mobile communication systems via a satellite, a central controller communicating with the mobile communication systems via the satellite communication switching office, a communication method comprising:

storing a plurality of message display forms in the mobile communication system, each message display form having a predetermined display format and a form identifier;

storing network identifiers for the central controller and at least one of the mobile communication systems;

generating at a first of the mobile communication systems a user message comprising message data and one of the stored network identifiers;

outputting from the first mobile communication system a satellite message carrying the one network identifier, the message data and the form identifier of a selected one of the message display forms to the satellite communication switching office;

transmitting the satellite message to the satellite communication switching office via the satellite; and

routing the satellite message from the satellite communication switching office to one of the central controller and a second of the mobile communication systems in accordance with the one network identifier.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the storing of message display forms comprises downloading at least a portion of the message display forms from a PCMCIA card connected to the mobile communication switching office.

21. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the storing of message display forms comprises receiving satellite messages from the satellite communication switching office including the form identifier and corresponding predetermined display format for at least a corresponding one of the message display forms.

22. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the storing of network identifiers comprises receiving a satellite message from the satellite communication switching office including at least one of the network identifiers.

23. (Original) In a mobile satellite system including a satellite communication switching office having a satellite antenna for providing communication of satellite messages with a mobile communication system via a satellite, a central controller communicating with the mobile communication system via the satellite communication switching office, the mobile communication system including a satellite transceiver communicating data carrying a first satellite message to the satellite in response to transceiver control signals, and a graphic user interface providing a display and accepting key inputs from a user, the mobile communication system storing on a tangible medium the following software structure for transmitting and receiving the data:

(1) a middleware communications layer sending the data including the satellite message to the transceiver, said middleware communications layer capable of supporting different low level communication codes to support different transceivers;

(2) a middleware router layer controlling operations of the network controller, said middleware router layer capable of supporting different transceiver protocols;

(3) a network controller layer outputting the satellite message carrying the user message to the middleware communications layer, said network controller layer capable of supporting different network functionality; and

(4) a user interface layer outputting a user message, and receiving user inputs from the graphic user interface, said user interface layer capable of supporting different screen designs and/or information that is displayed to or received from the user without requiring recompilation of the software structure.

24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) In a mobile communication system including a communication switching office for providing communication of a ~~messages~~ message with a mobile communication ~~systems~~ system, a central controller communicating with the mobile ~~communications~~ communication system via the communication switching office, a communication method comprising:

storing network identifiers for the central controller and at least one of the mobile communication systems;

generating at a first of the mobile communication systems a user message comprising message data and one of the stored network identifiers;

outputting from the first mobile communication system a message carrying the one network identifier and the message data to the communication switching office;

transmitting the message to the communication switching office; and

routing the message from the communication switching officer to one of the central controller and second of the mobile communication systems in accordance with the one network identifier.

26. (Currently Amended) In a mobile communication system including a communication switching office for providing communication of a ~~messages~~ message with a mobile communication ~~systems~~ system, a central controller communicating with the mobile ~~communications~~ communication system via the communication switching office, the mobile communication system storing on a tangible medium the following software structure for transmitting and receiving data:

(1) a middleware communications layer sending the data including the satellite message to the transceiver, said middleware communications layer capable of supporting different low level communication codes to support different transceivers;

(2) a middleware router layer controlling operations of the network controller, said middleware router layer capable of supporting different transceiver protocols;

(3) a network controller layer outputting the satellite message carrying the user message to the middleware communications layer, said network controller capable for supporting different network functionality; and

(4) a user interface layer outputting a user message, and receiving user inputs fro the graphic user interface, said user interface layer capable of supporting different screen designs and/or information that is displayed to or received from the user without requiring recompilation of the software structure.

27. (Canceled)

28. (Original) A communication system comprising:

a network form controller storing the plurality of message forms each having a form identifier and a form definition specifying a predetermined format; and

a user interface controller retrieving a selected one of the form definitions and at least one station address responsive to user inputs, and said user interface controller outputting a user message including the at least one station address and the form identifier corresponding to the selected form definition.